CLAIMS

- (1) A sheet transport mechanism, comprising:
 - a rotation roller;
 - a movable member; and
- a sheet transport guide for guiding toward and/or away from the rotation roller a sheet to be transported between the rotation roller and the movable member, the sheet transport guide including an elastic member and having a portion connected to the movable member,

wherein the sheet transport guide applies elastic force to the movable member so that the movable member is elastically biased toward the rotation roller.

- (2) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the elastic member is a torsion coil spring having first and second arms for guiding a sheet to be transported.
- (3) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the movable member is a driven roller that is rotated in association with rotation of the rotation roller.
- (4) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 3, wherein the driven roller is supported by the first arm of the torsion coil spring.
- (5) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the movable member is a separation pad for feeding one sheet at a time.

- (6) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the separation pad is supported by a coil portion of the torsion coil spring.
- (7) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 4, wherein a plurality of the movable members are aligned approximately parallel to a shaft of the rotation roller, and wherein each of the movable members is provided with the sheet transport guide.
- (8) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 7, wherein the sheet transport guide positioned at a predetermined reference position is adjusted to have a larger elastic force than any one of the sheet transport guides positioned at positions distant from the reference position have.
- (9) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 8, wherein the sheet transport guides are adjusted to have respective elastic forces that become progressively smaller with distance from the reference position.
- (10) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 8, wherein the reference position is located in an approximately central part of the shaft of the rotation roller.
- (11) A sheet transport mechanism according to claim 8, wherein the reference position is located in either one of opposite end portions of the shaft of the rotation roller.